

RIDDER AIDE QUILTS, CHARGING POLITICS

W. M. Langsdorf, Promoted to
Deputy Last Week, Protests
Loss of His Old Job.

SEES WPA BEING MISUSED

'Democratic Vote-Getting' Unit
Shows Decline in Efficiency
and Economy, He Holds.

Charging "a growing tendency to disregard efficiency and economy for other considerations" in the WPA organization, Walter M. Langsdorf submitted his resignation yesterday as deputy administrator to Victor F. Ridder, WPA chief.

Mr. Langsdorf, who for three years has held important posts in the work-relief administration in this city and has been regarded by the various administrators under whom he has served as one of their best executives, resigned in protest against his removal last week as assistant administrator in charge of service projects.

His appointment as deputy administrator by Mr. Ridder was considered a promotion. Nevertheless, he regarded this as a political move. He was succeeded in his former post by Miss Mary Tinney, executive secretary to Mr. Ridder.

No Reflection on Ridder.

He presented his resignation to Mr. Ridder yesterday while they were driving together to City Hall, where Mr. Ridder had an appointment to see Mayor La Guardia. His resignation should not be regarded as a reflection on Mr. Ridder, Mr. Langsdorf said. According to Mr. Ridder, Miss Tinney's appointment to Mr. Langsdorf's old post was based on instructions from Washington.

In explaining his resignation Mr. Langsdorf, who is a retired manufacturer of independent means, said he objected to a growing tendency to use the WPA as a "Democratic vote-getting machine."

"I have seen enough reorganizations in this place," Mr. Langsdorf said. "I've outlived six or seven administrators, both under the old works division and the WPA, and I have no desire to become a political football."

He explained that when the change in the administration of the service division was made known on Feb. 6, he made inquiries in Washington as to the reason, but could get no satisfaction. In Mr. Langsdorf's opinion the change was unwarranted. He said he had been asked to take the service division job by General Hugh S. Johnson, Mr. Ridder's predecessor. The division now employs more than 35,000 white-collar workers.

Last Thursday, when Mr. Ridder announced Miss Tinney's appointment to Mr. Langsdorf's old post, he also announced that William Nunn, sent here from Washington, would become director of professional services.

Gives Reasons for Quitting.

In his letter of resignation to Mr. Ridder, Mr. Langsdorf said:

"As you know this is the third year of my association with the relief administration. At the beginning of the CWA I was asked to assist in its organization in the City of New York. I saw the administration grow from nothing to an efficient, orderly and competent arm of the government under the magnificent leadership of Colonel William J. Wilgus. Similar standards and methods have been regulating the policy of the service divi-



Associated Press Photo.

QUITS WPA HERE.

W. M. Langsdorf.

sion during your administration and that of General Hugh S. Johnson.

"At the end of November, a group of investigators was sent from Washington to make recommendations, and in their report I was glad to note the following, referring to the 'white collar' division under my direction:

"We have found this division well set up and efficiently run. We found throughout an attitude of great pride in the division's accomplishments and a smooth operation within the division justifying this pride."

"I am happy to turn over to the two people (Miss Tinney and Mr. Nunn) who have already replaced me a group of assistants who have made this accomplishment possible."

"Since the start of the WPA last August there has been a growing tendency to disregard efficiency and economy for other considerations. The ruling from Washington referred to by you, therefore, I can only interpret as an arbitrary pre-election move indicating their desire to change the policies established by me and which you and they have just finished praising."

"Being willing to continue with the organization only as long as I am satisfied that its goal is efficient, non-political service to the needy, I tender herewith my resignation."

In announcing acceptance of Mr. Langsdorf's resignation, Mr. Ridder denied that there was any politics in the change of administration in the service division. He said the change, dictated from Washington, was based on a general order issued by Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Works Progress Administrator, applicable to the entire country, and providing that women supplant men as assistant administrators in charge of services.

He also explained that he himself had instituted the policy in the local WPA of having women employees in the women's division as far as possible.

Mr. Ridder left for Washington last night to confer with Aubrey Williams, assistant to Mr. Hopkins, on matters pertaining to the WPA organization in this city. He did not indicate when he would appoint a successor to Mr. Langsdorf.